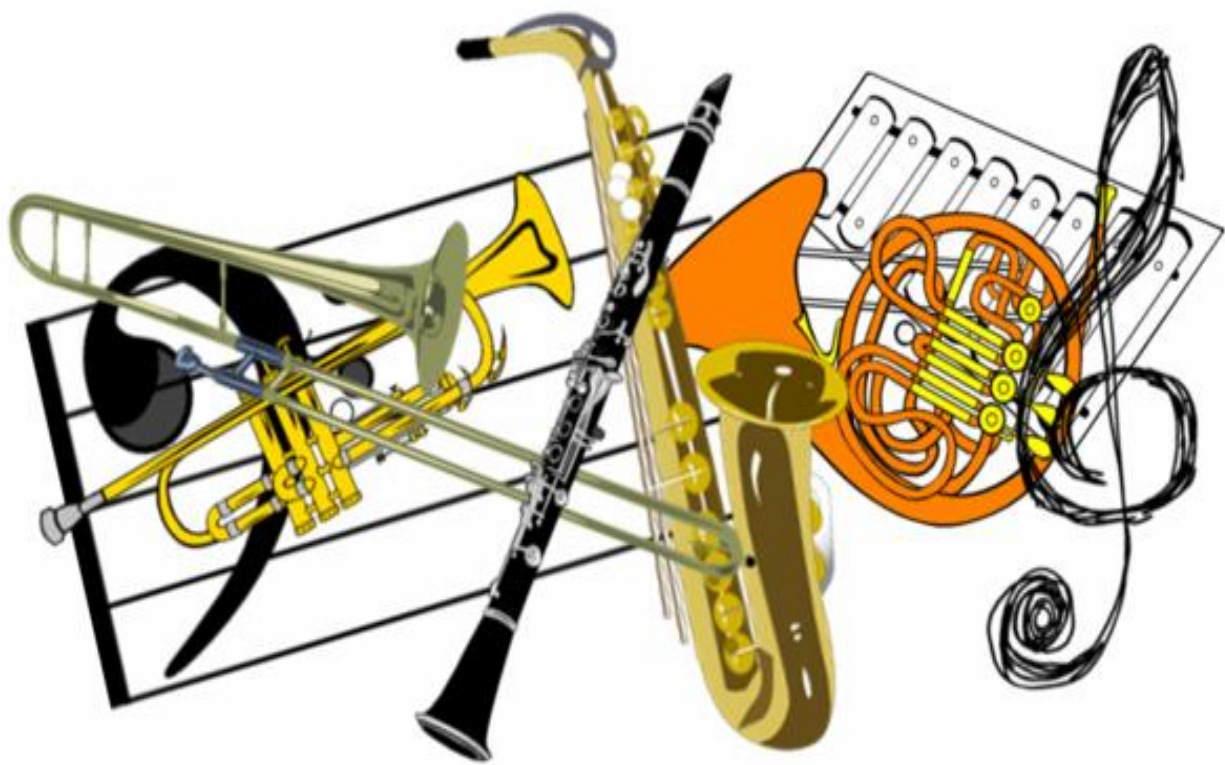


Hopewell

BAND HANDBOOK

2024-2025

Mr. Maule
Band Room



Dear Band Parents, and students,

Welcome back to a new year of Band studies! Band students will experience instrumental instruction through one small-group lesson every six days, as well as one 45-minute large-group rehearsal every six days. There is a major change to the rehearsal schedule which is outlined in the next page.

In this handbook I will outline what is expected and necessary for a successful Band experience. Please read it thoroughly with a parent or guardian, sign the response sheet and have your child return it by **Friday, September 20th**. Since I may not have the students for class on this due date, students will need to come to my room before homeroom to drop off their sheets. You will place the band handbook in your band folder for reference.

Good communication is the key to having a successful experience for your child. Please call me at 484-365-6150 ext. 2235, email me at rmaule@oxfordasd.org, or we can set up a parent conference to discuss concerns. I always return emails and phone calls within 24 hours, so if you don't hear from me, it means that I didn't get your correspondence. Please try again!

I am excited to be working with your children, to give them an opportunity to grow musically. None of your child's success would be possible without the support you give them.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Maule
Band Director





INSTRUMENT PROCEDURES:

Drummers/Mallets: When you come into school, keep your drum sticks/mallets and music IN your book bag and go straight to your homeroom.

Low Brass/Larger instruments: When you come into school, you may drop off your instrument in the Band closet (located in the Band room) prior to homeroom (after 8:20am.)

Flutes, Clarinets, Alto Saxes, Trumpets: You should take your instruments to your homeroom when entering the building.

THE BAND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Beginner Band students will meet on B Days from 8:45-9:30am (starting in November.)

5th Grade Band students will meet on E Days from 7:55-8:40am.

6th Grade Band students will meet on F Days from 7:55-8:40am.

LESSON BOOKS:

All students must purchase “Essential Elements—Book 1” for use this year. If you already have Book 1, you can use the one from last year. It is possible that some students may need to move into Book 2, and that will be done on an individual basis. ALL students MUST have Book 1, however, for use in Band rehearsals. Books and accessories can be ordered through Taylor's Music Store OR Music & Arts—and will be delivered to the school.

Accessory forms will be available for you in the Band room. You can also purchase the book at the store or website of your choice.

ACCESSORIES:

All **reed players** should start the year with a minimum of 3 reeds, and cork grease should be in your case. Rico Royal (blue box) reeds tend to last the longest (more bang for your buck!) and produce the best sound. Although they cost a little more, the student will get more from the reed and will need to replace it less often. Please consult with me for the strength number of reed to purchase.

Brass players need to have the appropriate oil (slide or valve), and **percussionists** must have the Combo Bell and Snare kit, bell mallets, and a pair of sticks at home.

PERCUSSION NOTE:

You will be asked to play a variety of instruments in the percussion section to fulfill all of the parts needed for our performances. Snare drum is only a small part of the percussion experience. All percussion students will be expected to perform on an assortment of instruments throughout the year.

Due to the large number of percussionists, it is also sometimes necessary to split up the parts so that all students get an opportunity to play. In this case, there may be times when you will play only part of a song as opposed to the entire piece. By doing this, we have a desirable musical balance and we work as a group to make the piece successful.

TAYLOR'S MUSIC STORE DELIVERIES:

Although you may always purchase from the store of your choice, we do have a representative from Taylor's Music Store that takes orders and makes deliveries to our school. The representative comes on Tuesdays. If you would like to order something, please speak with me and I will assist you. If the order is received by me by Friday, there is a good chance that if the item is in stock that it can be delivered by the following Tuesday.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:

We participate in two kinds of performances: one competition (6th Grade and Jazz Band ONLY) and four concerts (two school and two formal.) Our attire is similar for both:

Concert/Competition: BLACK pants or skirt, maroon Oxford Music shirt, dress shoes

Order forms for our maroon Hornets Band Shirt will be distributed in October. ALL BAND MEMBERS MUST HAVE A MAROON OXFORD MUSIC SHIRT. If you have one from last year, please make sure that it still fits! Hooded sweatshirts are also offered, but they are NOT concert wear. You may purchase them if you desire, but they are not mandatory and will not be permitted in place of the band shirt at performances.



Does your Oxford Music shirt fit? Check that closet! ☺

*****YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PERFORM IN THE CONCERT IF YOU DO NOT WEAR THE BAND UNIFORM*****

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS:

When a student's instrument is in need of repair, you may have it sent to Taylor's Music Store via the representative that visits on Tuesdays. The repair person will assess the repair that it needs, quote a repair price, and then contact you over the phone. The repair technician must get your permission before proceeding to repair the instrument. The longer your response to confirm the repair may cause the instrument to be delayed in getting back to your child.

PRACTICING:

Practice charts are not required and will not be a part of your grade. However, accountability on practicing will be assessed as "playing tests" during group lessons. Consistent practicing measures are necessary to become well-rounded musicians. Only playing during Band class will not make you a more competent musician.

My recommendations for proper practice times are as follows:

- Practice four (4) days a week (this does not have to be in succession)
- During each practice session, work for 20-25 minutes

Practicing is NOT:

- playing from beginning to end with no stopping
- playing a piece one time through and moving on to the next piece
- skipping a passage of music that you consistently play incorrectly

Practicing IS:

- circling trouble spots with a pencil or highlighter
- chunking out passages (example: working from measures 25-33)
- working out a finger pattern, a shift, a small technical spot
- setting realistic goals if you cannot practice for 30 minutes
- not going faster than your fingers can take you
- correcting your errors before moving on
- taking breaks during your practice routine (don't make them long and intense)
- having fun playing your instrument (don't make it a chore.....like cleaning your bedroom ☺)

LESSONS:

Lessons meet once a cycle on a rotating schedule and are part of your grade. You are always to ASK permission from the teacher that you have at that time to attend your lesson. If you are denied permission to attend the lesson, you should speak to Mr. Maule about joining another lesson group for that cycle.

BAND REHEARSALS:

All rehearsals are mandatory. We meet ONLY once a week to prepare for our performances. You are to be in your chair with your instrument and music ready by the time indicated by the director.

YOU ARE NEVER TO PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT BEFORE THE REHEARSAL BEGINS. We are a band and we will warm up together. ☺

CLASS CLIMATE:

- ~Be polite and respectful of yourself and others.
- ~Share.
- ~Be on time.
- ~Come to class prepared – physically and mentally.
- ~No chewing gum/candy!!!!!!!!!!

The classroom rules are pretty basic. If an infraction occurs, I will remind you to adjust your behavior. If the negative behavior continues, a point will be removed from your grade. If similar behaviors continue in band rehearsals, a call will be made to your parents.

PRACTICES AND PERFORMANCES:

Monday, December 9 **In-school Concerts (5th and 6th grade)** **during school**
Tuesday, December 10 **Winter concert @ OAHS** **7:00pm**

This will start at 7:00pm and students will need to report at 6:15pm to the High School band room. The concert will be held in the High School auditorium.

Monday, May 12 **In-school Concerts (5th and 6th grade)** **during school**
Tuesday, May 13 **Spring concert @ OAHS** **7:00pm**

The Spring Concert will start at 7:00pm and students will need to report at 6:15pm to the High School band room. The concert will be held in the High School auditorium.

Friday, May 16 **HERSHEY (6th grade and Jazz Band only)**

*****Please note these dates and try to avoid vacations and other planned absences during these concerts.*****

*****YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PERFORM IN THE CONCERT IF YOU DO NOT WEAR THE CORRECT ATTIRE*****

MATERIALS:

Please come to every lesson and rehearsal prepared. You must have your Band folder, **a pencil**, your music, with lesson book, and instrument or sticks. Each lesson/make-up lesson is assessed by a four-point rubric system. If you come unprepared without materials, this will affect your score.

COURSE CONTENT:

The band course is comprised of group lessons, full band rehearsals, one concert band competition and four performances. The purpose of the Hopewell Band is to give each instrumental student a place in which he/she can musically mature, perform as a part of a large ensemble, and develop their current skills while learning higher-level concepts. The Oxford Area School District Instrumental Music Faculty follows the National Standards for Music Education.

5th Grade students will learn to play 2 Major scales, play a range of an octave and a third, recognize and use articulation, rhythms divisible by the 8th note (drummers the 16th note,) time signatures of 4/4 & 2/4, some dotted rhythms, use of proper breath control, consistent embouchure, proper instrument care and sight-reading.

6th Grade students will learn to play 3-4 major scales, recognize and use dynamics, recognize and use articulation markings, rhythms divisible by the 16th note, time signatures of 4/4-3/4-2/4, dotted rhythms to the 8th note, use of proper breath control, improved tone quality, to play expressively, to play in-tune, proper instrument care and sight-reading.

GRADING:

You will receive a percentage grade for Band, and the grade operates on a “total points” system. Everything that is expected of you has a point value connected to it. Your grade will be based on playing tests, preparation, behavior, and attendance (lessons.) Each graded activity will be assessed under a four-point rubric system, except performances. You will lose a full letter grade if the Winter or Spring concerts are missed, unless I am contacted by your parents (e.g. family obligation, bereavement, marriage, etc.)

GROUP LESSON:

A score of **10**: 100%: in attendance, on time, with instrument, prepared with all proper materials, good behavior

- Minus 1.5 points: forgot instrument
- Minus 1.5 points: forgot music
- Minus 1 point: inappropriate behavior

A score of **6**: 0%: skipping Group Lesson—make-up lesson not attended

PLAYING TEST:

A score of **10**: 100%: passage of music played proficiently, including solid dynamics, tempo, intonations, and rhythms

A score of **9**: 90%: passage of music played above average, sometimes including the use of dynamics, tempo, intonations, and rhythms

A score of **8**: 80%: passage of music played with only average ability, pauses, hesitations, wrong notes/fingerings, incorrect rhythms

A score of **7**: 70%: passage of music clearly not practiced, unable to finish passage

A score of **6**: 0%: playing test not taken

OPEN-DOOR POLICY:

My door is always open if you have questions or concerns. Once the lesson schedule is distributed, you may have trouble understanding it at first. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE!** Come and see me whenever you have a band problem and we'll work it out at that time. If you need extra help, please ask! My goal is for you to be successful. ☺



HOW TO CONTACT MR. MAULE:

Telephone – 484-365-6150 ext. 2235

Email – rmaule@oxfordasd.org

Oxford Music Boosters can also be found on

facebook